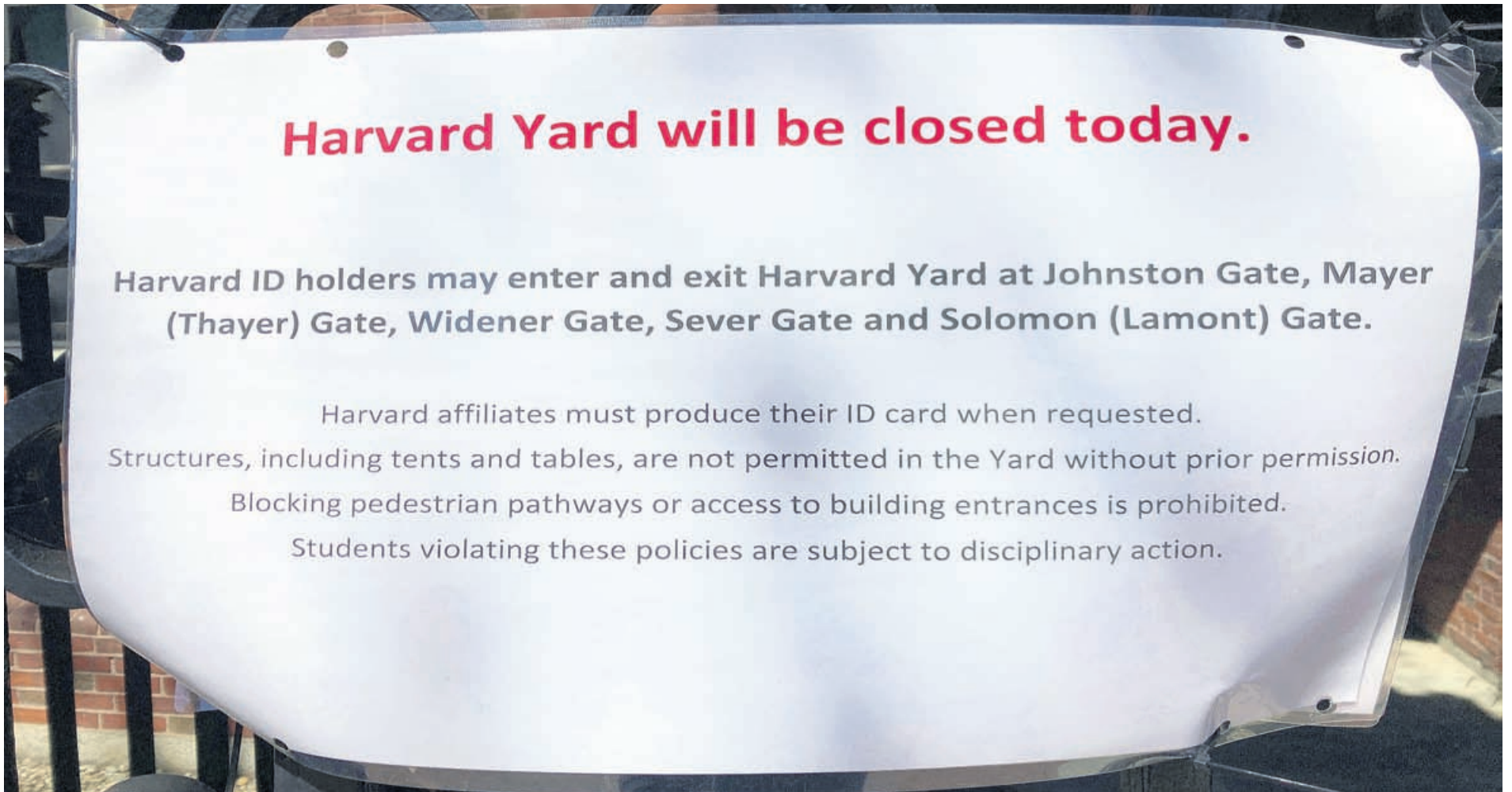




Pro-Palestinian protests sweep U.S. college campuses following mass arrests at Columbia



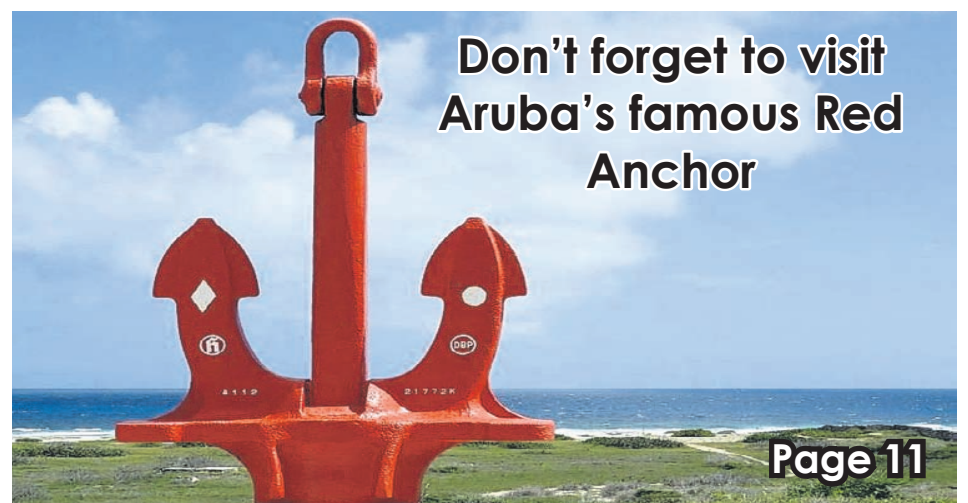
A sign outside Harvard Yard warns that only those with Harvard IDs can enter the yard, outside Harvard University Monday, April 22, 2024, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press
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views on Aruba at the
top of the Hooiberg Hill

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Pro-Palestinian protests sweep U.S. college campuses following mass arrests at Columbia

From Front

By **NICK PERRY, MICHELLE L. PRICE and DAVE COLLINS**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Columbia canceled in-person classes, dozens of protesters were arrested at Yale and the gates to Harvard Yard were closed to the public on Monday as some of the most prestigious U.S. universities sought to diffuse campus tensions over Israel's war with Hamas. The various actions followed the arrest last week of more than 100 pro-Palestinian demonstrators who had camped out on Columbia's green, as schools struggle with where to draw the line between allowing free expression while maintaining a safe and inclusive campus.

In addition to the demonstrations at the Ivy League schools, pro-Palestinian encampments have sprouted up on other campuses, including the University of Michigan, New York University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The protests have pitted students against one another, with pro-Palestinian students demanding that their schools condemn Israel's assault on Gaza and divest from companies that sell weapons to Israel. Some Jewish students, meanwhile, say much of the criticism of Israel has veered into antisemitism and made them feel unsafe, and point out that Hamas is still holding hostages taken during the group's Oct. 7 invasion. Tensions remained high Monday at Columbia in New York City, where the campus gates were locked to anyone without a school ID and where protests broke out both on campus and outside.

U.S. Rep. Kathy Manning, a Democrat from North Carolina who was visiting Columbia with three other Jewish members of Congress to view the encampment, told reporters after meeting with students from the Jewish Law Students Association that there was "an enormous encampment of people" who had taken up about a third of the green. "We saw signs indicating that Israel should be destroyed,"



Columbia University professors rally in solidarity with their students rights to protest free from arrest at the Columbia University campus in New York on Monday April 22, 2024.

Associated Press

she said after leaving the Morningside Heights campus. A woman inside the campus gates led about two-dozen protesters on the street outside in a chant of, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" — a charged phrase that can mean vastly different things to different groups. Meanwhile, a small group of pro-Israel counter demonstrators protested nearby. University President Minouche Shafik said in a message to the school community Monday that she was "deeply saddened" by what was happening on campus.

"To deescalate the rancor and give us all a chance to consider next steps, I am announcing that all classes will be held virtually on Monday," Shafik wrote, noting that faculty and staff should work remotely when possible and that students who don't live on campus should stay away. Protests have roiled many college campuses since Hamas' deadly attack on southern Israel, when militants killed about 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and took roughly 250 hostages. In response, Israel has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, according to the local health ministry, which doesn't distinguish between combatants and non-combatants but says at least two-thirds of the dead

are children and women. Prahlad Iyengar, an MIT graduate student studying electrical engineering, was among about two dozen students who set up a tent encampment on the school's Cambridge, Massachusetts, campus Sunday evening. They are calling for a cease-fire and are protesting what they describe as MIT's "complicity in the ongoing genocide in Gaza," he said.

"MIT has not even called for a cease-fire, and that's a demand we have for sure," Iyengar said.

He also said MIT has been sending out confusing rules about protests.

"We're out here to demonstrate that we reserve the right to protest. It's an essential part of living on a college campus," Iyengar said.

On Sunday, Elie Buechler, a rabbi for the Orthodox Union's Jewish Learning Initiative at Columbia, sent a WhatsApp message to nearly 300 Jewish students recommending they go home until it's more safe for them on campus.

The latest developments came ahead of the Monday evening start of the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Nicholas Baum, a 19-year-old Jewish freshman who lives in a Jewish theological seminary building two blocks from Columbia's Morningside Heights campus, said protest-

ers over the weekend were "calling for Hamas to blow away Tel Aviv and Israel." He said some of the protesters shouting antisemitic slurs were not students.

"Jews are scared at Columbia. It's as simple as that. There's been so much vilification of Zionism, and it has spilled over into the vilification of Judaism," he said.

The protest encampment sprung up at Columbia on Wednesday, the same day that Shafik faced bruising criticism at a congressional hearing from Republicans who said she hadn't done enough to fight antisemitism. Two other Ivy League presidents resigned months ago following widely criticized testimony they gave to the same committee.

In her statement Monday, Shafik said the Middle East conflict is terrible and that she understands that many are experiencing deep moral distress. "But we cannot have one group dictate terms and attempt to disrupt important milestones like graduation to advance their point of view," Shafik wrote.

Over the coming days, a working group of deans, school administrators and faculty will try to find a resolution to the university crisis, noted Shafik, who didn't say when in-person classes would resume.

Several students at Colum-

bia and its sister school, Barnard College, said they were suspended for taking part in last week's protests, including Barnard student Isra Hirs, the daughter of Democratic U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar.

At Yale, police officers arrested about 45 protesters and charged them with misdemeanor trespassing, said Officer Christian Bruckhart, a New Haven police spokesperson. All were being released on promises to appear in court later, he said.

Protesters set up tents on Beinecke Plaza on Friday and demonstrated over the weekend, calling on Yale to end any investments in defense companies that do business with Israel.

Nadine Cubeisy, a Yale student and one of the protest's organizers, said it was disturbing that "this university that I'm going to, that I contribute to and that my friends give money to is using that money to fund violence."

In a statement to the campus community on Sunday, Yale President Peter Salovey said university officials had spoken to the student protesters multiple times about the school's policies and guidelines, including those regarding speech and allowing access to campus spaces.

School officials said they spoke with protesters over several hours and gave them until the end of the weekend to leave Beinecke Plaza. The said they again warned protesters Monday morning and told them that they could face arrest and discipline, including suspension, before police moved in. A large group of demonstrators regathered after Monday's arrests at Yale and blocked a street near campus, said Bruckhart. There were no reports of any violence or injuries.

Last week, the University of Southern California took the unusual step of canceling a planned commencement speech by its 2024 valedictorian, who had publicly supported Palestinians. The university cited security concerns in a decision that was praised by some pro-Israel groups but criticized by free-speech advocates. □

Biden marks Earth Day by going after GOP, announcing \$7 billion in federal solar power grants

By ALEXA ST. JOHN and WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

TRIANGLE, Virginia (AP) —

President Joe Biden marked Earth Day by announcing \$7 billion in federal grants for residential solar projects serving 900,000-plus households in low- and middle-income communities while criticizing Republicans who want to gut his policies to address climate change.

The Democrat seeking reelection this year took aim at the supporters of former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement.

"My MAGA Republican friends don't seem to think it's a crisis," Biden said Monday at the Prince William Forest Park in Triangle, Virginia. "They actually want to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides the funding for the vast majority of these projects, and roll back protections for clean air and clean water."

The Biden administration also announced plans to expand its New Deal-style American Climate Corps green jobs training program. The solar grants are being awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency, which unveiled the 60 recipients on Monday. The



President Joe Biden speaks at Prince William Forest Park on Earth Day, Monday, April 22, 2024, in Triangle, Va.

Associated Press

projects are expected to eventually reduce emissions by the equivalent of 30 million metric tons of carbon dioxide and save households \$350 million annually, according to senior administration officials.

Biden's latest environmental announcements come as he is working to energize young voters for his reelection campaign. Young people were a key part of a broad but potentially fragile coalition that helped

him defeat then-President Trump in 2020. Some have joined protests around the country of the administration's handling of Israel's war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Senior administration officials said young Americans are keenly invested in the Biden climate agenda and want to help enact it. The Climate Corps initiative is a way, the officials said.

Solar energy is gaining traction as a key renewable en-

ergy source that could reduce the nation's reliance on fossil fuels, which emit planet-warming greenhouse gases. Not only is it clean, but solar energy can also boost the reliability of the electric grid.

But solar energy can have high costs for initial installation, making it inaccessible for many Americans and potentially meaning a mingling of environmental policy with election-year politics.

Forty-nine of the new grants are state-level awards, six serve Native American tribes and five are multi-state awards. They can be used for investments such as rooftop solar and community solar gardens.

Biden made the announcement about 30 miles (48 kilometers) southwest Washington at Virginia's Prince William Forest Park. The park was established in 1936 as a summer camp for underprivileged youth from Washington, part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps to help create jobs during the Great Depression.

"Broad community-based solar is our brightest hope for protecting people and our climate from the scourge of fossil fuels," said Jean Su, director of the Energy Justice program at the Center for Biological Diversity. "These targeted investments mean low-income families get clean energy that is affordable, resilient and protects our ecosystems. It's great to see President Biden jumpstart this landmark program."

Biden used executive action last year to create the American Climate Corps modeled on Roosevelt's New Deal. □

Foundation to convene 3rd annual summit on anti-Asian hate, building AAPI coalitions

NEW YORK (AP) — A foundation launched in the wake of anti-Asian hate will hold a wide-ranging conference bringing together Asian American and Pacific Islander notable figures for a third year.

The Asian American Foundation will hold a Heritage Month Summit next month in New York City for AAPI Heritage Month. Oscar-nominated actor Steven Yeun, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and actor Maulik Pancholy who had an upcoming appearance canceled by a Pennsylvania school board over his sexual orientation are among those set to attend.

The summit will include various panels on issues like civil rights, extremism and the importance of representation. There will also be showcases of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander entrepreneurs in various sectors such as nonprofits,

food and philanthropy.

The Asian American Foundation, or TAAF, was established in May 2021 by prominent Asian American business leaders. The organization notably secured more than \$1 billion donor pledges for AAPI organizations through an "AAPI Giving Challenge" at the time.

There had been a dramatic spike in verbal, physical and online attacks of AAPI hate since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, which was thought to have originated in China. Stop AAPI Hate, a reporting center, documented over 9,000 incidents mostly self-reported by victims between March 2020 and June 2021.

The foundation's goal was to "close critical gaps of support for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and end the longstanding underinvestment in our communities." □



Actor Steven Yeun poses on Oct. 10, 2013, in New York. The Asian American Foundation will hold a Heritage Month Summit in May 2024 in New York City for AAPI Heritage Month.

Associated Press

With homelessness on the rise, the Supreme Court weighs bans on sleeping outdoors

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
and **CLAIRE RUSH**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court wrestled with major questions about the growing issue of homelessness on Monday as it considered whether cities can punish people for sleeping outside when shelter space is lacking. It's the most significant case before the high court in decades on the issue, and comes as record numbers of people are without a permanent place to live in the United States.

The case started in the rural Oregon town of Grants Pass, which began fining people \$295 for sleeping outside as the cost of housing escalated and tents sprung up in the city's public parks. The San Francisco-based U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the law under its holding that banning camping in places without enough shelter beds amounts to cruel and unusual punishment. The justices appeared to be leaning toward a narrow ruling in the case after hearing arguments that



Activists demonstrate at the Supreme Court as the justices consider a challenge to rulings that found punishing people for sleeping outside when shelter space is lacking amounts to unconstitutional cruel and unusual punishment, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, April 22, 2024.

Associated Press

showed the stark terms of the debate over homelessness in Western states like California, which is home to one-third of the country's homeless population. Sleeping is a biological necessity, and people may be forced to do it outside if they can't get housing or

there's no space in shelters, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said. "Where do we put them if every city, every village, every town lacks compassion and passes a law identical to this? Where are they supposed to sleep? Are they supposed to kill themselves,

not sleeping?" she said. Solving homelessness is a complicated question, said Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who raised questions about both the role of federal courts and of camping bans. "How does it help if there are not enough beds for the number of homeless

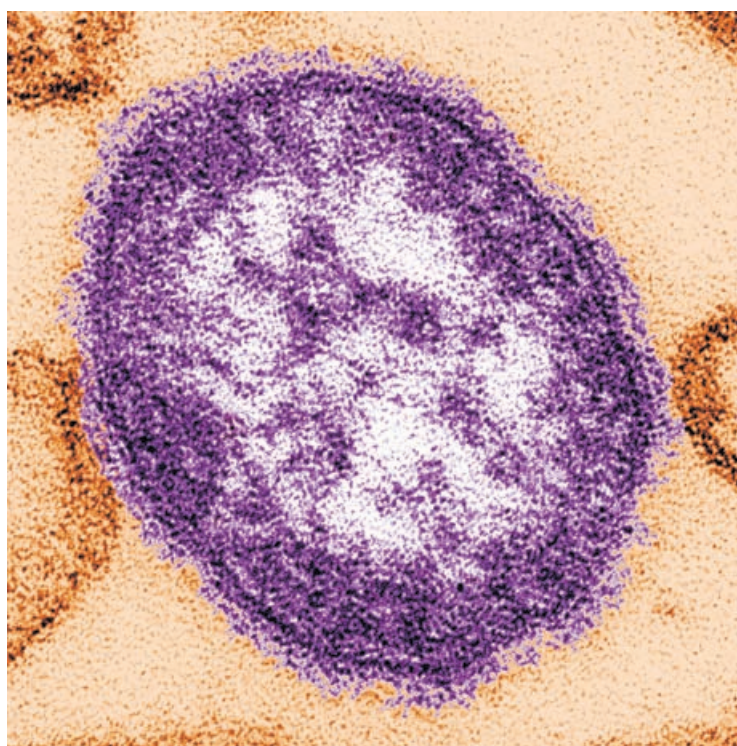
people in the jurisdiction?" he said.

Other conservative justices asked how far Eighth Amendment legal protections should extend as cities struggle with managing homeless encampments that can be dangerous and unsanitary.

"How about if there are no public bathroom facilities, do people have an Eighth Amendment right to defecate and urinate outdoors?" said Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Other public-health laws cover that situation, Justice Department attorney Edwin Kneedler said. He argued people shouldn't be punished just for sleeping outside, but said the ruling striking down the Grants Pass law should be tossed out because the court didn't do enough to determine if people are "involuntarily homeless."

Gorsuch and other justices also raised the possibility that other aspects of state or federal law could help sort through the issue, potentially without setting sweeping new legal precedent. □



This undated image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Feb. 4, 2015, shows an electron microscope image of a measles virus particle, center.

Associated Press

By **LEAH WILLINGHAM**
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A West Virginia hospital has

confirmed the first known case of measles in the state since 2009, health officials said Monday.

West Virginia confirms first measles case since 2009

The Monongalia County Health Department said WVU Medicine alerted officials Sunday that an adult patient living in the county tested positive for the viral infection. Health officials have not pinpointed exactly where and how the patient was exposed but said the person had recently traveled abroad. The patient who was partially vaccinated against measles, having received one of two doses had developed symptoms, sought medical treatment through the WVU Medicine system and was instructed to stay home while awaiting lab results.

One of the world's most contagious diseases, measles can lead to potentially

serious complications. Dr. Brian H. Huggins, the county health department's incoming health officer, said the department is working with the hospital to identify people who came into contact with the patient.

"We really want to emphasize that this is an illness that people should take very seriously," Huggins said. Nationwide, measles cases this year already are nearly double the total for all of 2023, raising health experts' concerns about the preventable, once-common childhood virus. Health officials have confirmed measles cases in at least 17 other states so far this year, including cases in New York City, Philadelphia and Chi-

cago. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention documented 113 cases as of April 5. There have been seven outbreaks and most U.S. cases 73% are linked to those flare-ups. Still, the count is lower than some recent years: 2014 saw 667 cases and 2019 had 1,274.

Most U.S. cases are brought into the country by people who traveled where measles is far more common. Huggins said West Virginia has not seen a case since 2009 largely due to its strict school vaccination laws. West Virginia is one of a handful of states that allows only medical exemptions to vaccine requirements. □

Papua New Guinea leader takes offense after Biden implies his uncle was eaten by cannibals

By ROD McGUIRK
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister James Marape accused Joe Biden of disparaging the South Pacific island nation by implying that an uncle of the U.S. president had been eaten by "cannibals" there during World War II.

Biden's comments offended a key strategic ally as China moves to increase its influence in the region.

The president spoke at a Pennsylvania war memorial last week about his Army Air Corps aviator uncle Second Lt. Ambrose J. Finnegan Jr., whom he said was shot down over Papua New Guinea, which was a theater of heavy fighting.

"They never found the body because there used to be there were a lot of cannibals for real in that part of New Guinea," Biden said, referring to the country's main island.

Marape said in a statement



Papua New Guinean Prime Minister James Marape, left, listens during a meeting with Pacific Islands Forum leaders during the U.S.-Pacific Islands Forum Summit in the East Room of the White House, Monday, Sept. 25, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

on Sunday that Biden "appeared to imply his uncle was eaten by cannibals."

"President Biden's remarks may have been a slip of the tongue; however, my country does not deserve

to be labeled as such," Marape said in a statement provided by his office to The Associated Press on Monday. "World War II was not the doing of my people; however, they were

needlessly dragged into a conflict that was not their doing," Marape added. The rift comes as Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese began a visit on Monday to Papua New

Guinea, Australia's nearest neighbor. Albanese and Marape will commemorate strong defense ties between the two countries by walking part of a pivotal battle ground known as the Kokoda Track later this week.

"I'm very confident that PNG has no stronger partner than Australia and our defense and security ties have never been stronger," Albanese told reporters before departing Australia.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Friday Biden was speaking to the bravery of his uncle and the many U.S. service members that put their lives on the line.

"He takes this very seriously. His uncle, who served and protected this country, lost his life serving. And that should matter," she said.

Biden's account that Finnegan's plane was shot down was not supported by military records. □

Europe is the fastest-warming continent, at nearly twice the average global rate, report says

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Europe is the fastest-warming continent and its temperatures are rising at roughly twice the global average, two top climate monitoring organizations reported Monday, warning of the consequences for human health, glacier melt and economic activity.

The U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization and the European Union's climate agency, Copernicus, said in a joint report that the continent has the opportunity to develop targeted strategies to speed up the transition to renewable resources like wind, solar and hydroelectric power in response to the effects of climate change.

The continent generated 43% of its electricity from renewable resources last

year, up from 36% the year before, the agencies say in their European State of the Climate report for last year. More energy in Europe was generated from renewables than from fossil fuels for the second year running. The latest five-year averages show that temperatures in Europe are now running 2.3 degrees Celsius (4.1 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, compared to 1.3 degrees Celsius higher globally, the report says just shy of the targets under the 2015 Paris climate accord to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. "Europe saw yet another year of increasing temperatures and intensifying climate extremes including heat stress with record temperatures, wildfires, heat waves, glacier ice loss and lack of snowfall," said Elisabeth

Hamdouch, the deputy head of unit for Copernicus at the EU's executive commission.

The report serves up a continental complement for WMO's flagship state of the global climate report, which has been published annually for three decades, and this year came with a "red alert" warning that the world isn't doing enough to fight the consequences of global warming.

Copernicus has reported that March marked the 10th straight month of record monthly temperatures. The average sea-surface temperature for the ocean across Europe hit its highest annual level in 2023, the Europe report said. The European report focuses this year on the impact of high temperatures on human health, noting that deaths related to heat



A lake of meltwater has formed on the tongue of the Rhone Glacier near Goms, Switzerland, on June 13, 2023.

Associated Press

have risen across the continent. It said more than 150 lives were lost directly last year in connection with storms, floods and wildfires. The cost of weather- and climate-related economic losses in 2023 were estimated at more than 13.4 billion euros (about \$14.3 billion). "Hundreds of thousands of people were affected by

extreme climate events in 2023, which have been responsible for large losses at continental level, estimated to be at least in the tens of billions of euros," said Copernicus director Carlo Buontempo.

Extreme weather fanned heat waves, wildfires, droughts and flooding, the report said. □

Satellite photos suggest Iran air defense radar struck in Isfahan during apparent Israeli attack

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Satellite photos taken Monday suggest an apparent Israeli retaliatory strike targeting Iran's central city of Isfahan hit a radar system for a Russian-made air defense battery, contradicting repeated denials by officials in Tehran of any damage in the assault.

The strike on an S-300 radar in what appears to have been a very limited strike by the Israelis would represent far more damage done than in the massive drone-and-missile attack Iran unleashed against Israel on April 13. That may be why Iranian officials up to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have been trying to dismiss discussing what the attack actually did on Iranian soil.

Analysts believe both Iran and Israel, regional archrivals locked in a shadow war for years, now are trying to dial back tensions following a series of escalatory attacks between them as the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip still rages and inflames the wider region. But a strike on the most advanced air defense system Iran possesses and uses to protect its nuclear sites sends a message, experts say.

"This strike shows Israel has the ability to penetrate Iran's air defense systems,"



A Russian-made S-300 air defense system sits on display for the annual Defense Week, marking the 37th anniversary of the 1980s Iran-Iraq war, at Baharestan Square in Tehran, Iran, Sept. 24, 2017.

Associated Press

said Nicole Grajewski, a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment's nuclear policy program who wrote a forthcoming book on Russia and Iran. "The precision of it was quite remarkable."

The satellite images by Planet Labs PBC taken Monday morning near Isfahan's dual-use airport and air base, some 320 kilometers (200 miles) south of Tehran, showed an area nearby that served as a deployment point for the air defense system. Burn marks sit around what analysts including Chris Biggers, a consultant former govern-

ment imagery analyst, previously had identified as a "flap-lid" radar system used for the S-300.

Less-detailed satellite images taken after Friday showed similar burn marks around the area, though it wasn't clear what was at the site. Biggers said other components of the missile system appeared to have been removed from the site before the attack even though they provide defensive cover for Iran's underground Natanz nuclear enrichment facility.

"That's a powerful statement, given the system, the

location, and how they use it," Biggers wrote.

On Friday, air defenses opened fire and Iran grounded commercial flights across much of the country. Officials in the aftermath sought to downplay the attack, trying to describe it as just a series of small drones flying through the sky.

"What happened ... was not a strike," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian claimed in an interview with NBC News. "They were more like toys that our children play with – not drones."

In the attack's aftermath, however, Iraqis found what appeared to be remnants of surface-to-air missiles south of Baghdad. That, coupled with a suspected Israeli strike on a radar station in Syria the same day, suggests Israeli fighter jets flew over Syria into Iraq, then fired so-called "stand-off missiles" into Iran for the Isfahan attack. Small, shorter-range drones may have been launched as well Israel has been able to launch sabotage attacks and other missions inside of Iran.

Still, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani repeated Tehran's denial Monday.

"Relevant authorities have announced that this harassment attack has caused no damage whatsoever and Iran's defensive system have carried out their duties," Kanaani told journalists at a briefing. "Therefore in our opinion this issue is not worthy of addressing." The S-300 and their years-delayed delivery to Iran show the challenge Tehran faces in getting any foreign-made advance weapon systems into the country. Russia and Iran initially struck a \$800 million deal in 2007, but Moscow suspended their delivery three years later because of strong objections from the United States and Israel. □

4 Germans caught marking Hitler's birthday outside Nazi dictator's birthplace in Austria



A car passes Adolf Hitler's birth house in Braunau, Austria, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Four Germans were caught laying white roses in memory of Adolf Hitler at the house where the Nazi dictator was born in western Austria on the anniversary of his birth, and one gave a Hitler salute as they posed for photos, police said Monday.

Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, in Braunau am Inn. After lengthy wrangling over the future of the house where he was born, work started last year on turning it into a police station a project meant to make it unattractive as a pilgrimage site for people who glorify Hitler.

Police in Upper Austria province said the four Germans — two sisters and their part-

ners, in their 20s and early 30s — went to the building on Saturday to lay white roses in its window recesses. They posed in front of the house for photos and one of the women gave the stiff-armed Hitler salute.

Patrolling officers noticed the group and took them to a police station for questioning. The woman said that she hadn't meant the salute seriously, but officers said they found a chat with the others on her cellphone in which they shared Nazi-themed messages and pictures.

Police said they were reporting all four to prosecutors on suspicion of violating the Austrian law that bans the symbols of Nazism. □

Earth Day forum:

Aruba has big plans for the conservation of its climate and nature!

The second edition of the Earth Day Forum took place yesterday morning at the Hilton Hotel, where this year's theme was "Climate Resilience" and was organized by the Ministry of Transportation, Infrastructure, Environment, and Senior Affairs, where various interest groups presented to hold discussions on climate change.

Last year, as Minister Ursell Arends explained, they celebrated this day on "Nature's Right" day, where they presented the concept of a law on the same day, and this year they presented the National Climate Resilience Council, which is the platform that will address how Aruba needs to prepare for climate change in both the short and long term, and that's what was presented yesterday.

It was also reported that his ministry, together with that of Communication, Economic Affairs, and Sustainable Development of Geoffrey Wever, and 13 partners in the community are financing a study conducted by an American institute, which will conduct a Climate and Ocean Risk



Vulnerability Index Assessment (CORVI), which will provide more than 100 indicators and also 3,000 data points on how to deal with climate change. "Aruba needs to prepare itself, and apart from that, a partnership was announced with the International Panel on Deltas, Coastal Areas, and Islands (IPDC), a platform launched by the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands, Mark Harber,

at the last United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP) where Aruba is the champion for the entire Caribbean region." He said. Furthermore, it was brought forward that "we have taken a national approach, this is not only the government's task but a shared responsibility, with both the private sector as well as NGOs, academia, and the public sector coming together so that we can address this issue as it af-

fects each of us, and we all need to be prepared to see how we will address climate change on our island," Minister Arends assured.

Also, he pointed out that last Sunday the public consultation on Nature's Rights law ended, and now it has to continue its path where they need to work on the final concept so that it can be sent to the Advisory Council and then it can reach the Parliament of

Aruba before the end of the year. "This is what we have achieved since last year's first edition of the Earth Day Forum until now, certainly a one-year trajectory, but this is the first time we are going to make changes to our Constitution, and I believe it is appropriate to involve the entire community so that they know what the content of the law is, but also to give their input on what they want to see in the law," he concluded. □

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Playa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These honorees were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Colin & Mrs. Leslie Holbrown from Toronto, Canada.
Mr. Allan & Mrs. Sharon Hopkirk from Toronto, Canada.
Mr. Douglas Rosser & Ms. Susan Munro from Toronto, Canada.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Playa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and

thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's beautiful people.
- Aruba's wonderful weather.
- Aruba's sun, sand and sea.
- "Spending time with family".
- "Spending time with friends".
- Aruba's delicious clean drinking water.
- Aruba's fabulous restaurants.
- "The feeling of safety".
- "Direct flights from Toronto makes it amazing".
- "Lovely resort for families and friends".

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



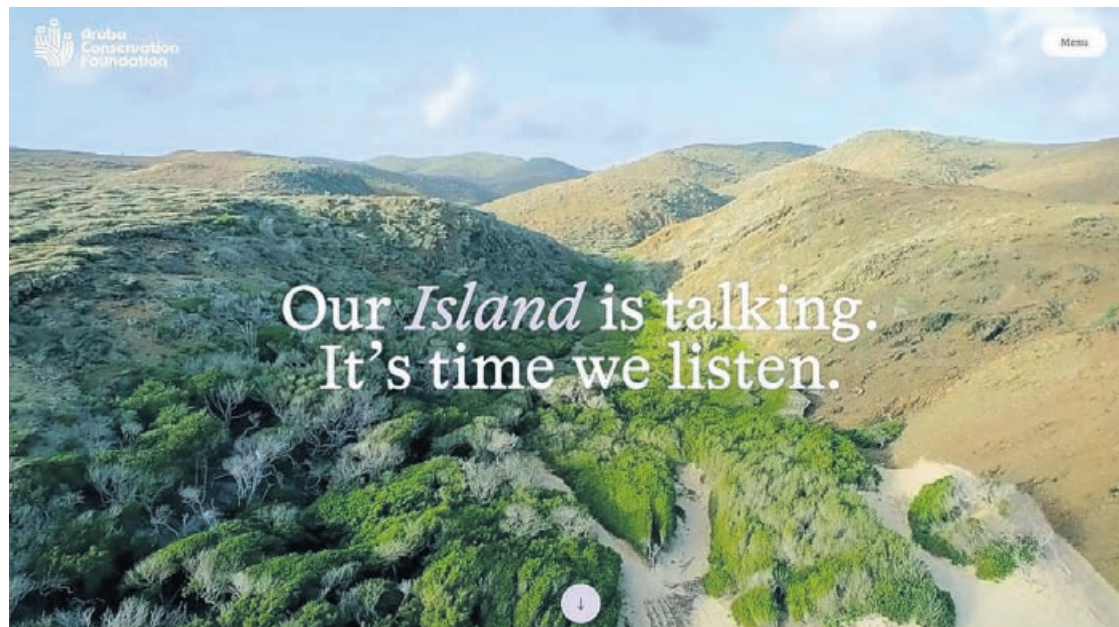
FPNA changes to its new identity "Aruba Conservation Foundation"

Yesterday, the independent nature conservation organization known as Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba (FPNA) took the opportunity of Earth Day to reveal its transformation, now becoming the Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF).

In an interview with Edeline Berg, who serves as the communications & marketing manager, Tyson Lopez, CEO of the foundation, and Natasha Silva, who is the conservation director, they revealed that since June of last year, they have been discussing the organization's transition from being a park management organization to a conservation organization.

Over the past 7 years, the foundation has expanded its role and responsibilities beyond managing Arikok National Park, being appointed to manage several additional protected areas around Aruba.

In 2017, they began to undertake more conservation actions, where sometimes the community didn't fully understand what they were doing, such as closing an illegal entrance to the park at Shete, an unauthorized entry in the park's design. "That was to try to minimize pathways to have fewer cars running with less



impact on nature," Lopez explained.

This year, the mangrove and saline RAMSAR site #198 Spaans Lagoon was

added to the foundation's responsibilities, and in 2019, the Marine Park, consisting of four protected marine areas, was officially placed under the organization's

management.

In 2020, 11 additional terrestrial areas were added to the management, including areas like Duinen Sasarawichi, Saliña Malmok, Rooi Lamunchi, and Costa Sero Colorado, among others.

Additionally, the foundation actively participates in conservation efforts, including collaboration with various local and international NGOs for programs such as conservation of the Shoco (owl), mangrove and coral restoration, reintroduction of the endemic and extinct Lora (parrot) in Aruba, management of invasive species, and education within the Aruban community, especially for school children.

For better management of the expanding tasks and to mitigate the increasing pressure on nature, the

foundation underwent a comprehensive strategic process from 2020 to 2022 to determine its new direction for the coming years.

In June of last year, they launched the strategy for the next 10 years, part of which involved transitioning from a park management organization to a conservation and nature organization. At that time, they introduced the Multi Annual Corporate Strategy 2023–2032, which marks the organization's first strategic map responding to new ecological, social, and economic challenges, emphasizing conservation, sustainability, biodiversity, ecological system improvement, and restoration initiatives.

For this reason, they decided to rebrand because many people in the community recognized them as "Arikok Park", to make their work more understandable, to align with the new strategic direction and conservation actions of ACF to change the perception and image of a traditional park management organization that only operates within park boundaries and focuses solely on recreation. Thus, they adopted their new direction as a modern conservation management organization.

Today, ACF reaffirms its position as Aruba's steward for nature, with the organization acting and advocating for the protection, preservation, and restoration of the island's ecological system and biodiversity, reminding locals and visitors of their connection to nature.

"The idea is that we prioritize nature and recreation comes after because we also understand that recreation is important because people need to connect with nature to appreciate it. But nature comes first, and that's what we've been doing in recent years as well, even with, for example, wanting to install the wind turbine at ☐



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Interactive exhibition presents the history of corals in the Dutch Caribbean

WWF-NL launched an online exhibition on the history of corals in the Dutch Caribbean. Through a story map, visitors can engage interactively to learn more about the region, its reefs, their value, and what's threatening them. It is also described how individuals and governments can contribute to the protection of coral reefs.

Coral reefs have highest biodiversity

It is widely known that corals provide food, income and protection to inhabitants of the Dutch Caribbean. The coral reef is a complex ecosystem that is believed to have the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem on the planet. Unfortunately, Dutch Caribbean reefs have lost significant area coverage and biodiversity due to many threats such as climate change and



Diver in Fuikbaai, Curaçao in 1955. Credit: Willem van de Poll, National Archive/ Photo collection van de Poll

wastewater pollution.

Corals: then and now

WWF-NL created an online collection of information and imagery in a simple, clear and interactive way for teenagers and adults. This exhibition highlights how the reefs have changed over the years, the several threats that corals are facing, what is currently being done to protect them and what each person can do to



Healthy coral reef. Credit: Casper Douma

protect corals.

Many conservation activities

A few of the conservation projects that are included in the exhibition are the work from Reef Renewal Bonaire, Reef Renewal Curaçao, Turning the Tide in Aruba and Intellireefs in St. Maarten. Also included are the sea urchin restoration projects in St. Eustatius and Saba, and RoffaReefs in Bonaire. The goal of RoffaReefs is to collect eggs and breed selected fish species that are important for maintaining the health of corals. Sea urchins



Coral disease. Credit: Ellen Muller

are also essential grazers of reefs. Furthermore, WWF-NL shares easy tips for coral protection such as: don't touch coral or feed animals, use reef-friendly sunscreen and avoid using single-use plastics.

Share your imagery

The online story map was made possible with the valuable contribution of scientists, universities and nature organizations that provided academic information and imagery. Local citizens also shared

photos and videos from their personal collection, ranging from old to recent footage. WWF-NL invites organizations and individuals to continue submitting imagery from all six islands via caribbean@wwf.nl. The online exhibition 'Historic Reefs of the Dutch Caribbean' is a collection that will be regularly updated with new information and imagery. □



Restoration work of Reef Renewal Bonaire. Credit: Reef Renewal Bonaire

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitor Brenda Carpenter from South Burlington, Vermont, USA.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is family. My beautiful 85 year old mom also known as "Mamma Linda" to our family and I have stayed in touch with on the island (Manchebo beach Resort family and our fabulous tour guide Ray Croes)."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon

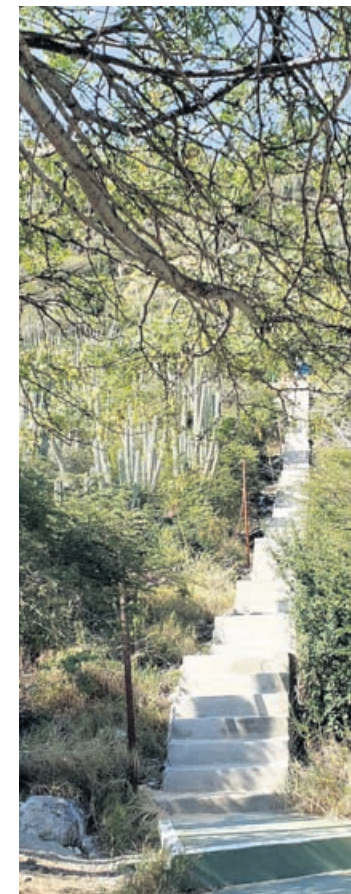
in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still

be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □



Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly

visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but



the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can

be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

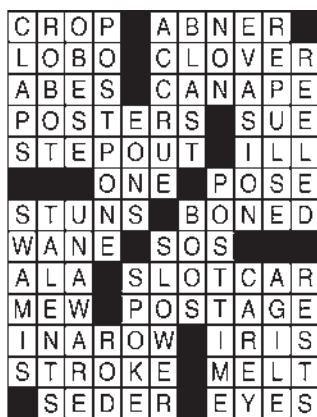
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Travel
1 California stop
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valley 42 Wear
5 Jeweler's down
unit 43 Lewd look

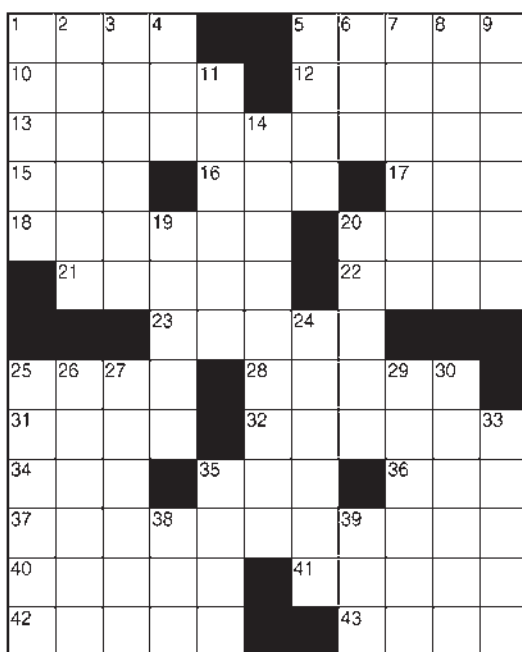
10 Take as one's own

DOWN
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16 Tennis need
17 Back muscle
18 Eye part
20 Face feature
21 Not flimsy
22 Blown away
23 Mosque faith
25 Tibet setting
28 Articles
31 Await
32 "Forget it!"
34 Industrious insect
35 Director Brooks
36 Gardner of movies
37 Broadway musical groups



Yesterday's answer

8 Relaxed 26 Man of
9 Did lab Brazil
work 27 Com-
11 Court pletely
sport 29 Nasty
14 Editor's guy
concerns 30 "Help!"
19 Homer 33 Intense
work beam
20 Identified 35 Cart
24 Coral isles puller
25 Cochise's 38 Carmine
people 39 Suffering



4-23

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

V B T T E F Q M U M T K V S R

A D T J I E W V P M V S M X T I J R Q T H

Q H A Q E M O T J . — A D T D S M D

V B D E V A D I T T

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU CAN CUT ALL THE FLOWERS, BUT YOU CANNOT KEEP SPRING FROM COMING. — PABLO NERUDA

Cruise ship Schedule: Apr 22 - Apr 30 2024

TUE	30	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	I	1

Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 22 2024

TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Mohammed Fita picks coffee beans on his farm Choche, near Jimma, 375 kilometers (234 miles) southwest of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Saturday, Sept. 21 2002.

Associated Press

Your morning coffee may be more than a half million years old

By **ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN**
AP Science Writer

That coffee you slurped this morning? It's 600,000 years old.

Using genes from coffee plants around the world, researchers built a family tree for the world's most popular type of coffee, known to scientists as *Coffea arabica* and to coffee lovers simply as "arabica." The researchers, hoping to learn more about the plants to better protect them from pests and climate change, found that the species emerged around 600,000 years ago through natural cross-breeding of two other coffee species.

"In other words, prior to any intervention from man," said Victor Albert, a biologist at the University at Buffalo who co-led the study. These wild coffee plants originated in Ethiopia but are thought to have been first roasted and brewed primarily in Yemen starting in the 1400s. In the 1600s, Indian monk Baba Budan is fabled to have smuggled seven raw coffee beans back to his homeland from Yemen, laying the foundation for coffee's global takeover.

Arabica coffee, prized for its smooth and relatively sweet flavor, now makes up 60% - 70% of the global coffee market and is

brewed by brands such as Starbucks, Tim Horton's and Dunkin'. The rest is robusta, a stronger and more bitter coffee made from one of arabica's parents, *Coffea canephora*.

To piece together arabica coffee's past, researchers studied genomes of *C. canephora*, another parent called *Coffea eugenioides*, and more than 30 different arabica plants, including a sample from the 1700s courtesy of the Natural History Museum in London that Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus used to name the plant.

The study was published Monday in the journal *Nature Genetics*. □

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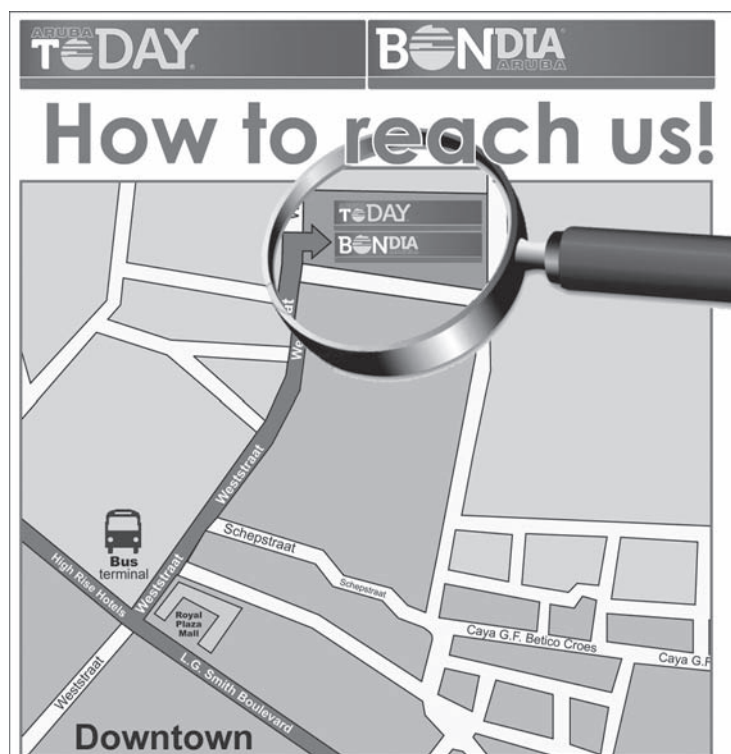
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Report urges fixes to online child exploitation CyberTipline before AI makes it worse

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY** and **MATT O'BRIEN**

AP Technology Writers

A tipline set up 26 years ago to combat online child exploitation has not lived up to its potential and needs technological and other improvements to help law enforcement go after abusers and rescue victims, a new report from the Stanford Internet Observatory has found.

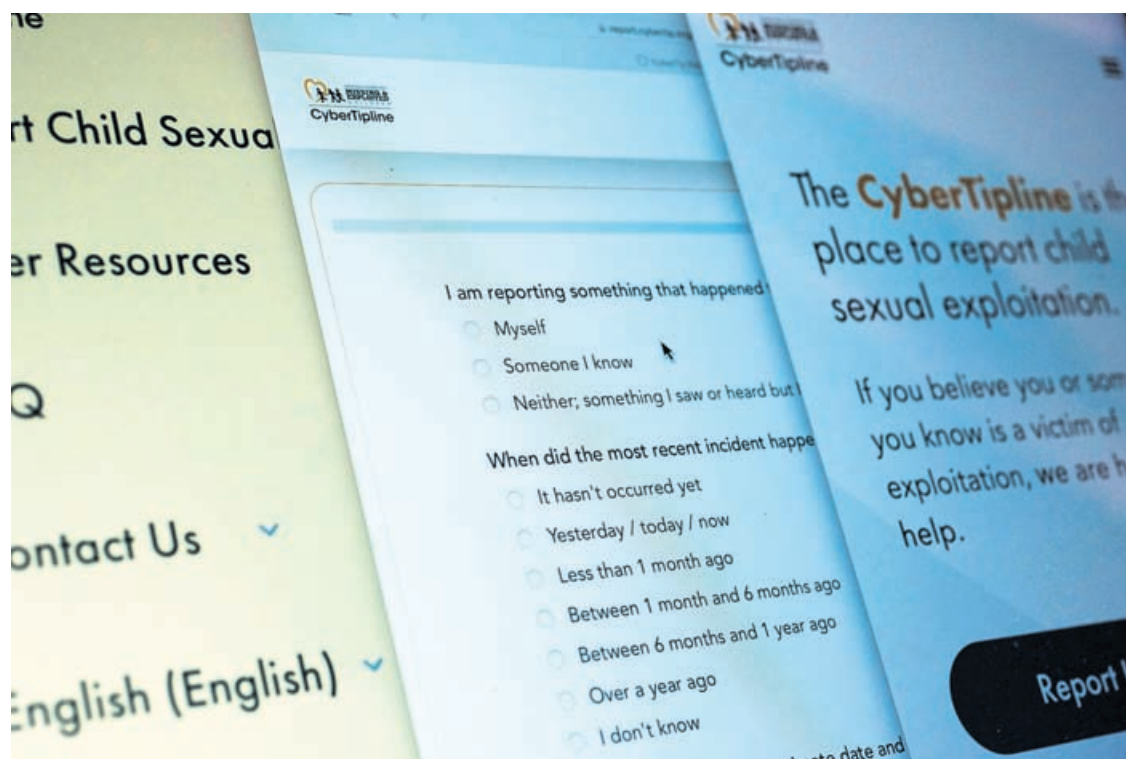
The fixes to what the researchers describe as an "enormously valuable" service must also come urgently as new artificial intelligence technology threatens to worsen its problems.

"Almost certainly in the years to come, the CyberTipline will just be flooded with highly realistic-looking AI content, which is going to make it even harder for law enforcement to identify real children who need to be rescued," said researcher Shelby Grossman, an author of the report.

The service was established by Congress as the main line of defense for children who are exploited online. By law, tech companies must report any child sexual abuse material they find on their platforms to the system, which is operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. After it receives the reports, NCMEC attempts to find the people who sent or received the material as well as the victims, if possible. These reports are then sent to law enforcement.

While the sheer amount of CyberTipline reports is overwhelming law enforcement, researchers say volume is just one of several problems core to the system. For instance, many of the reports sent by tech companies like Google, Amazon, and Meta lack important details, such as enough information about an offender's identity, the report said. This makes it hard for law enforcement to know which reports to prioritize.

"There are significant issues with the entire system right



Pages from the CyberTipline website are seen on a computer in New York on Friday, April 19, 2024. Associated Press

now and those cracks are going to become chasms in a world in which AI is generating brand-new CSAM," said Alex Stamos, using the initials for child sexual abuse materials. Stamos is a Stanford lecturer and cybersecurity expert.

The system is behind technologically and plagued by a constant challenge among government and nonprofit tech platforms: the lack of highly skilled engineers, who can get paid far higher salaries in the tech industry. Sometimes those employees are even poached by the same companies that send in the reports.

Then there are legal constraints. According to the report, court decisions have led the staff at NCMEC to stop vetting some files (for instance, if they are not publicly available) before sending them to law enforcement. Many law enforcement officials believe they need a search warrant to access such images, slowing down the process. At times, multiple warrants or subpoenas are needed to identify the same offender.

It's also easy for the system to get distracted. The report reveals that NCMEC recently hit a milestone of a million reports in a single

day due to a meme that was spreading on multiple platforms -- which some people thought was funny and others were sharing out of outrage.

"That day actually led them to make some changes," Stamos said. "It took them weeks to get through that backlog" by making it easier to cluster those images together.

The CyberTipline received more than 36 million reports in 2023, nearly all from online platforms. Facebook, Instagram and Google were the companies that sent in the highest number of reports. The overall number has been dramatically increasing.

Nearly half of the tips sent last year were actionable, meaning NCMEC and law enforcement could follow up. Hundreds of reports concerned the same offender, and many included multiple images or videos. Around 92% of the reports filed in 2023 involved countries outside the U.S., a large shift from 2008 when the majority involved victims or offenders inside the U.S.

Some are false alarms. "It drives law enforcement nuts when they get these reports that they perceive are definitely adults," Grossman told reporters. "But the system incentivizes platforms

to be very conservative or to report potentially borderline content, because if it's found to have been CSAM and they knew about it and they didn't report it, they could receive fines."

One relatively easy fix proposed in the report would improve how tech platforms label what they are reporting to distinguish between widely shared memes and something that deserves closer investigation.

The Stanford researchers interviewed 66 people involved with the CyberTipline, ranging from law enforcement to NCMEC staff to online platform employees. The NCMEC said it looked forward to "exploring the recommendations internally and with key stakeholders."

"Over the years, the complexity of reports and the severity of the crimes against children continue to evolve. Therefore, leveraging emerging technological solutions into the entire CyberTipline process leads to more children being safeguarded and offenders being held accountable," it said in a statement.

Among the report's other findings:

The CyberTipline reporting form doesn't have a dedicated field for submitting chat-related material, such

as sextortion messaging. The FBI recently warned of a "huge increase" in sextortion cases targeting children including financial sextortion, where someone threatens to release compromising images unless the victim pays.

Police detectives told Stanford researchers they are having a hard time persuading their higher-ups to prioritize these crimes even after they present them with detailed written descriptions to emphasize their gravity. "They wince when they read it and they don't really want to think about this," Grossman said.

Many law enforcement officials said they were not able to fully investigate all reports due to time and resource constraints. A single detective may be responsible for 2,000 reports a year. Outside the U.S., especially in poorer countries, the challenges around child exploitation reports are especially severe. Law enforcement agencies might not have reliable internet connections, "decent computers" or even gas for cars to execute search warrants.

Pending legislation passed by the U.S. Senate in December would require online platforms to report child sex trafficking and online enticement to the CyberTipline and give law enforcement more time to investigate child sexual exploitation. Currently, the tipline doesn't offer straightforward ways to report suspected sex trafficking.

While some advocates have proposed more intrusive surveillance laws to catch abusers, Stamos, the former chief security officer at Facebook and Yahoo, said they should try simpler fixes first.

"There's no need to violate the privacy of users if you want to put more pedophiles in jail. They're sitting right there," Stamos said. "The system does not work very well at taking the information that currently exists and then turning it into prosecutions." □

Caitlin Clark's early play in WNBA will be her tryout for a roster spot on US Olympic women's team

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Caitlin Clark's early play in WNBA will serve as her tryout for a spot on the U.S. Olympic women's basketball team.

The women's roster for the Paris Games won't be determined before June 1. Unable to attend the U.S. training camp this month, Clark will have the start of her WNBA career to show the U.S. women's basketball selection committee whether she deserves a spot on the team.

Selection committee chair Jennifer Rizzotti said she'll be watching.

"You always want to introduce new players into the pool whether it's for now or the future," Rizzotti told The Associated Press. "We stick to our principles of talent, obviously, positional fit, loyalty and experience. It's got to be a combination of an entire body of work. It's still not going to be fair to some people."

Clark was invited to attend the U.S. training camp in Cleveland, but it was held during the Final Four when she was still competing for a national championship with Iowa. Attending



Indiana Fever's Caitlin Clark holds her jersey following a WNBA basketball news conference, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

the camp wasn't mandatory to make the team, but it certainly would have helped the NCAA Division I all-time scoring leader show the selection committee she could hold her own against some of the best players in the world. The camp in Cleveland was the last one the U.S. had before announcing its roster.

The team will get together in Phoenix for a few days in July right before the Olympics,

including playing an exhibition All-Star game against WNBA players.

The U.S. men's basketball Olympic roster was announced last week.

The American women, who are trying for an eighth consecutive Olympic gold medal, have a talented group of guards in the pool. The list includes five-time Olympian Diana Taurasi as well as Chelsea Gray, Ariel Atkins and Jewell Loyd,

who all played on the Tokyo Games team in 2021. Kelsey Plum, who owns an Olympic gold medal in 3x3, and Sabrina Ionescu are also in the pool.

"Thinking about Diana and Chelsea Gray and when their careers are done, you want to make sure you're in a position with these upcoming guards with Sabrina, Kelsey and Caitlin that you feel good that our future is set," Rizzotti said dur-

ing 3x3 training camp last weekend.

Rizzotti will get a first-hand look at Clark when the No. 1 pick in the draft opens her WNBA career at the Connecticut Sun on May 14. Rizzotti is the president of the Sun.

If Clark makes the team, she wouldn't be the first WNBA rookie to be on an Olympic squad. Breanna Stewart was the last one to do it, making the team in 2016. The difference was that Stewart had been part of the national team since she was a sophomore in college, playing on the 2014 World Cup squad.

While Clark has no senior national team experience, she has played on junior USA teams. She won gold medals at the 2019 and 2021 FIBA U19 World Cups and the 2017 FIBA U16 Americas Championship.

There were reports Clark potentially could've been part of the 3x3 team, but Clark has said her focus is playing on the 5-on-5 team. "It's where I want to be," Clark told the AP last week. "Three-on-three is really cool, I've just never done it. But 5-on-5 is the goal and the dream." □

Alcaraz and Nadal continue recovery from injuries at Madrid Open

By TALES AZZONI
AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz is back from injury to try to win a third consecutive Madrid Open this week, with Rafael Nadal also in Monday's draw but top-ranked Novak Djokovic missing.

Alcaraz will be competing in his first European clay-court event of the season after skipping Monte Carlo and Barcelona because of a right arm injury.

The 20-year-old Spaniard begins his title defense against Alexander Shevchenko or Arthur Rinderknech.

Nadal, a record five-time champion in Madrid, continues his comeback from injury by facing American wild-card Darwin Blanch in the first round. The 22-time Grand Slam champion will then meet 10th-seed Alex de Minaur if he advances. Nadal lost to De Minaur in the second round at the Barcelona Open last week in his first tournament for more than three months.

The 37-year-old Nadal last won the Madrid title in 2017, when he beat Dominic Thiem in the final. Three-time champion Djokovic will not play for a second consecutive year in

Madrid, reducing his clay-court preparations for his French Open title defense. The 24-time Grand Slam winner is still likely to have the Italian Open in Rome to hone his clay game in mid-May before the event at Roland Garros starts on May 26.

Djokovic is yet to win a title this season after losing in the semifinals of Monte Carlo. He also skipped the Miami tournament in March.

Top-seeded Jannik Sinner, who beat Djokovic in the Australian Open final, will open his Madrid campaign against Lorenzo Sonego or a qualifier.



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain is unable to reach a shot by Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Thursday, March 28, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

Casper Ruud, who won the Barcelona title, faces Zhi-zhen Zhang or Miomir Kecmanovic in the first round. Top-ranked Iga Swiatek and defending champion Aryna Sabalenka lead the

women's field, with Swiatek looking to win her first title at the clay-court tournament. She will also be out to capture a third consecutive French Open title. □

NFL teams often misfire on drafting QBs. But how often do they fail? And why?

By **DAVE CAMPBELL and JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writers

The Minnesota Vikings need a quarterback in this draft. That much is easy to see. The hard part is picking the right one and determining what it's worth to them to get him.

With this top-flight class featuring Caleb Williams, Jayden Daniels, Drake Maye and J.J. McCarthy the Vikings are poised to set up their future with the 11th and 23rd overall picks that could be packaged together for a move into the top five.

But they realize, no matter how well set up they are for a rookie with a quarterback-friendly head coach in Kevin O'Connell and a superstar wide receiver in Justin Jefferson, there is no guarantee in this highly calculated yet no-better-than-a-coin-flip exercise of finding that franchise player in the NFL.

"I think our odds will be better than the margins. How good are those odds? Obviously, it's still a pretty risky thing," third-year general manager Kwesi Adofo-Mensah said. "But just because something's risky doesn't mean you're scared of it."

Teams are using premium draft picks on quarterbacks at an increasingly high rate. This draft is slated to be the eighth in the past nine years with at least three QBs taken in the first round, which matches the number of times that happened in the first 38 years of the common draft era.

Quarterbacks could go with the top three picks for the fourth time ever with Chicago, Washington and New England all sorely in need of a passer who can turn the fortunes of a franchise.

This draft could break a record with four quarterbacks possibly going in the top nine picks. The over-under for total QBs taken in the first round is set at 4½ by BetMGM Sportsbook with Michael Penix and Bo Nix



New York Jets quarterback Zach Wilson (2) warms up before an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

also under consideration for other QB-needy teams outside the top 10 like Denver and Las Vegas.

But for every Patrick Mahomes, there is a Josh Rosen.

"I think it would be hard to point to the results and say we've made progress, as sad as that is," NFL Network draft analyst Daniel Jeremiah said. "The more you look at it, I think there's more attention being paid now to maybe more so the environment than the actual quarterback, and knowing how to set the table for when you do take the quarterback, that he can be successful."

Never mind whether the player is a rhythm pocket passer, adept at ad-libbing, or somewhere in between.

"Different styles, that's not something to get carried away with. To me, it's more a focus of, 'Do we have the right play caller, the right offensive line to protect him, and do we have some guys he can get the ball to?'" Jeremiah said. "I think that seems to be what's going to lead to these guys being a success or not."

The Vikings are banking on

that.

"When we talk about these players, it's not just how good are they. It's how do we get the best version of themselves if they come to the Minnesota Vikings? We set up plans before they walk in the building," Adofo-Mensah said. "I think our odds will be better than the margins."

Still, the league-wide hit rate remains largely a toss-up.

From the start of the rookie wage scale era in the 2011 draft through 2022, 38 quarterbacks have been drafted in the first round. Those QBs have essentially played at slightly below league-average rates early in their careers with a passer rating 1.5 points below league average over their first three seasons.

Half of those QBs were allowed to leave their original teams without even reaching the relatively low bar of receiving a second contract, with 2021 second overall pick Zach Wilson expected to join that group soon in a departure from the New York Jets.

Only five earned first- or second-team All-Pro honors. Only eight have led

their teams to multiple playoff wins so far.

"I feel like it's really hard to evaluate quarterbacks, but you just try to get better and try to understand what you did the last time that was really good and what you did last time that was really bad," said Commanders first-year general manager Adam Peters, who is aiming for better success picking a QB at No. 2 this year than he had as assistant GM in San Francisco when the 49ers took Trey Lance third overall in 2021. "It's constantly evolving, and I don't think anybody has the magic pill to understand that one. If they do let me know, I'll hire them."

The majority of those busts provided two seasons or fewer as regular starters as teams quickly moved on from failures like Jake Locker, Johnny Manziel, Paxton Lynch and of course Rosen, who spent time with a whopping seven teams over five years after Arizona traded up five spots to take him 10th overall in 2018.

Several teams were quickly forced back on the quarterback draft carousel. There were eight instances of a team using another

first-round pick on a quarterback in the ensuing four drafts, including the Cardinals, who traded away Rosen after one year and took Kyler Murray first overall in 2019.

Chicago and New England could add to that count at the top of this draft with the Bears widely expected to draft Williams at No. 1 overall after trading away 2021 first-round QB Justin Fields and New England possibly using the third pick on a replacement for 2021 first-rounder Mac Jones.

Getting a quarterback worthy of a second contract is no sign of success with many of those being no better than a mid-level performer like Daniel Jones, Ryan Tannehill, Blake Bortles and Carson Wentz.

"I think it's probably the most, probably the toughest position of all professional sports to play," said Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst, whose franchise has enjoyed a more than 30-year uninterrupted run of top-flight QB play from Brett Favre to Aaron Rodgers to Jordan Love. "You never really know until you have that time to try to develop a guy, whether he's going to be able to do it at a high level or not. So, it's just a tough league to excel at that position, for sure."

But the success stories are the reason why teams keep coming back with the hope of getting their franchise-lifting quarterback, like Mahomes, Josh Allen, Lamar Jackson or Joe Burrow.

Five of the seven teams with the best odds to win the Super Bowl, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, are led by a quarterback they selected in the first round. Nine of the last AP NFL MVPs are first-round quarterbacks with their original teams.

"I think there's risk obviously," Broncos coach Sean Payton said.

"There's no certainty or else we'd be fantastic with the draft." □